REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's action dated September 6, 2002, having a shortened statutory period set to expire December 6, 2002.

In that action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshinobu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,605). That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoshinobu et al. discloses an apparatus for inputting coordinate information in which a relative coordinate mode and an absolute coordinate mode are automatically switched depending upon a contact area. If a tablet is operated with a finger or pen a detection circuit detects the contact area. If the contact area is greater than a predefined threshold value, a signal corresponding to the relative coordinates of point P at which the finger or pen is in contact with the table is output. If the contact area is equal to or smaller than a predefined threshold, a signal corresponding to the absolute coordinates of the point P is output. In this manner, the device can be operated utilizing either a fine pointed pen or a human finger.

In contrast to the teaching of Yoshinobu et al. the method and system of the present invention are directed to a technique for supporting increased portable computer compactness by displaying data within a display screen and partitioning that display screen into a touch-sensitive input area and a display area. Thereafter, the presence of the user's hands at the touch-sensitive area is detected and a touch-sensitive pad is graphically displayed within the touch-sensitive area in response to a detection of the user's hands at that position so that the user may utilize the touch-sensitive pad to enter data to be displayed within the display area. Thus, as expressly set forth within the independent claims of the present application, a touch-sensitive pad is graphically displayed within a touch-sensitive input area of a display screen for a portable computer in response to detection of a user's hand at the touch sensitive area.

In clear and absolute contrast to the claims of the present application, Yoshinobu et al. teaches that a keyboard may be displayed in response to selection of keyboard icon 107 (as described at column 8, lines 1-3) or, as described at column 8, lines 37 et seq. in response to the movement of "pointing cursor 101 to an area of the postcard image in which text is to be written. If the above-described area is selected, and editor cursor 302 is displayed on the screen (FIG. 13) in addition to the pointing cursor 101, and a virtual keyboard 301 (FIG. 13) is also displayed in a pre-determined area of the screen. A text is then input by properly selecting key icons of the virtual keyboard 301 using the pointing cursor 101."

Thus, as clearly and expressly set forth by Yoshinobu et al. keyboard 301 is not displayed in response to detection of a user's hands at a touch-sensitive input area of the display, but rather in response to selection of icon 107 or in response to movement of pointing cursor 101 "to an area of the postcard image in which a text is to be written." As this expressly contradicts the language of the present claims, Applicant urges the Examiner to consider that Yoshinobu et al. cannot be said to anticipate, show or suggest in any way the display of a touch-sensitive pad within a touch-sensitive input area in response to detection of a user's hands at that area. Consequently, Applicant urges that the Examiner's rejection of the independent claims contained within claims 1-21 as anticipated by Yoshinobu et al. is not well founded and withdrawal of that rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that claims 2 and 9, for example, expressly recite the concealing of a touch-sensitive pad from view "in response to detecting that said user's hands are no longer positioned at said touch-sensitive input area" and urge the Examiner to consider the description contained within Yoshinobu et al. at column 8, line 47 et seq., wherein Yoshinobu et al. describes that after completion of inputting of text the "[X] icon displayed on the right side below the virtual keyboard is selected with the pointing cursor 101, the window of the virtual keyboard 301 is closed and the virtual keyboard 301 disappears from the screen." Thus, with respect to these claims Yoshinobu et al. clearly cannot be said to show, suggest or anticipate in any way the concealing of
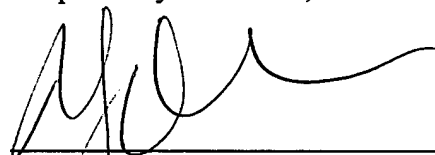
a touch-sensitive pad in response to detecting that a user's hands are no longer positioned at the touch-sensitive input area of a portable computer display screen in view of the express teaching within Yoshinobu et al. that the explicit selection of a particular icon is necessary in order to terminate the display of virtual keyboard **301**.

Applicant also respectfully points out to the Examiner that each of the claims in the present application expressly describes partitioning the display screen into a touch-sensitive input area and a display area and as expressly set forth within Yoshinobu et al. with respect to **FIG. 7**, the entire display area within that device is touch-sensitive at all times.

Consequently, Applicant urges that claims 1-21 define patentable subject matter over Yoshinobu et al. and withdrawal of all rejections and passage of this Application to issue is respectfully requested.

Neither extension of time nor fee are believed to be required; however, in the event an additional extension of time is required, please consider that extension requested and please charge the fee for that extension, as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447**.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Dillon
Reg. No. 29,634
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 969
Austin, Texas 78767-0969
(512) 343-6116

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT